

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 9, 2004. In the Office Action, Claims 28-41 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,850 (Kimura) and Claims 1-18, 42 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura.

In the response, Claims 1-18 and 24-44 have been canceled. New claims 52-102 have been added and include allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims.

Kimura discloses a hydraulic punching machine 10 that includes a hydraulic, spring return cylinder 16 for driving a punch 12 back and forth. A hydraulic pump 20 drives the hydraulic cylinder 16. The punch 12 and the hydraulic cylinder 16 are built into a body 18 of the punching machine 10. The pump 20 is located in a housing 22, but is mounted to a rear end of the body 18 and is housed separate from the body 18. *See* Kimura, columns 2-3, lines 2:60-3:8.

Kimura does not teach or suggest a self-contained actuator device contained in a housing with a substantially fixed mass of air or a self-contained actuator device including an air transfer device located in the housing for transferring air between two chambers of the housing. As seen in FIG. 1, Kimura teaches a hydraulic pump, not an air transfer device, located outside of the hydraulic punching machine body in a separate housing. Further, the hydraulic pump of Kimura delivers hydraulic fluid from outside the machine body to within the body for driving a punch. Therefore, the hydraulic machine of Kimura is not a self-contained device.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicant believes that the claims as filed are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this case. Applicant kindly requests that the Examiner telephone the attorney of record in the event a telephone discussion would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gayle A. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gayle" and last name "Bush" clearly distinguishable.

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